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REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME MATTERS ON ITS IN-SESSIONAL MEETING HELD DURING THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, 4-29 MAY 1992

Rapporteur: Mr. Luis ESPADA-PLATET (United States)

DRAFT DECISION

Programme approach

Recalling its decisions 90/21 of 22 June 1990 and 91/27 of 21 June 1991, in which the Governing Council recognized the need for the United Nations Development Programme assistance to be designed in such a way as to provide more flexible and effective support to national development programmes and ensure their sustainability.

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1992/46), which further defines the conceptual framework for the programme approach and of the views of the Governing Council on this matter;

2. Stresses that the programme approach should be applied on a country-specific basis and that the use of a variety of operational tools and programme-support mechanisms should be explored and encouraged in implementing that approach;

3. Further stresses that, while experimenting with the various tools and mechanisms, the United Nations Development Programme should continue to ensure the smooth implementation of country programmes;

4. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme, in consultation with Governments and United Nations specialized agencies to continue its work on the formulation of guiding principles for the programme approach in line with this decision, taking into account, inter alia, the need to:

(a) Assist relevant national organizations in the assessment and enhancement of technical and managerial capacities at the programme level and in the formulation and implementation of cross-sectoral, sectoral and subsectoral development programmes;

(b) Assist in the transfer of skills necessary for the development of self-sustained national institutions with a capacity to deal with multisectoral linkages;

5. Stresses the need to develop baseline data and success indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of projects/programmes assisted by the United Nations Development Programme in line with the requirements of the programme approach;

6. Also stresses the need to involve the United Nations specialized agencies at the early stages of the design of the United Nations Development Programme assistance and support to national development programmes, at the request of Governments;

7. Requests the Administrator (a) to hold informal consultations at the United Nations Development Programme headquarters on the draft guiding principles during the second half of 1992 and (b) to submit a progress report to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993).